

Appl. No. 09/736,650
Amdt. dated August 18, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 28, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants received the Office Action in which the Examiner: (1) objected to the drawings; (2) objected to the specification; (3) objected to the claims 2 and 4; (4) rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; (5) rejected claims 1-5 as anticipated by Sugimori (U.S. Pat. No. 6,477,507); and (6) rejected claim 6 as obvious over Sugimori in view of Eide (U.S. Pat. No. 6,243,774). In this Response, Applicants cancel claims 1-6 and submit new claims 7-24. Naturally, cancellation of claims 1-6 obviates the objections and rejections of claims 1-6.

I. DRAWING AND SPECIFICATION OBJECTIONS

The Examiner contends that reference numeral 208 is missing from the drawings and that the text regarding Figure 2 does not match Figure 2 with regard to steps 205, 206 and 208. Responsibility for this application has been transferred to the undersigned along with a copy of the file from the Assignee of record. The undersigned believes the objections noted by the Examiner are improper as the undersigned's copy of the specification and figures do not show the errors the Examiner believes are present. A courtesy copy of Figure 2 is attached with this response for the Examiner. To the extent, Applicants have misunderstood the Examiner's objections, clarification is respectfully requested.

II. THE CLAIMS

All other claim objections and rejections are obviated by cancellation of claims 1-6. Applicants submit that newly submitted claims 7-24 are patentable over the art of record. Claim 7, for example, requires "encrypting the public key using the protection key; storing the encrypted data and the encrypted public key in a first database record; encrypting the protection key; and storing the encrypted protection key in a second database record." This combination of claim limitations is not disclosed in the art of record. For at least this reason, claim 7 and all claims that depend from claim 7 are patentable over the art of record.

Claim 13 requires, among other features, "an encrypted public key stored in the database, the public key used to encrypt the data; and an encrypted private key stored in the database, the private key used to decrypt the data; wherein the

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key management process executing on the computer uses a first master key to encrypt the public key; and wherein the key management process executing on the computer uses a unique user identifier to generate a symmetric key, the symmetric key used to encrypt the private key." This combination of claim limitations is not disclosed in the art of record. For at least this reason, claim 13 and all claims that depend from claim 14 are patentable over the art of record.

Claim 21 requires, among other features, a storage medium containing software that causes a processor to "generate a protection key used to encrypt the public key; store the data, the public key, the private key, and the protection key in encrypted form in a database; and generate a symmetric key used to encrypt and decrypt the private key, the symmetric key generation based on one or more unique user-ID/password pairs." This combination of claim limitations is not taught or suggested by the art of record. For at least this reason, claim 21 and all claims that depend from claim 21 are patentable over the art of record.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any fees or time extensions are inadvertently omitted or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Hewlett-Packard Company Deposit Account Number 08-2025 and enter any time extension(s) necessary to prevent this case from being abandoned.

Respectfully submitted,



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